



The Learning Web

LEARNING BY DOING—YOUTH BECOMING ADULTS

FALL 2013 NEWSLETTER

focus on Youth Voice —

From the Executive Director's Desk

Why won't they listen to me? I know the right thing to do. Don't we all feel that way sometimes? Haven't we all said that about something going on in politics or at the work place? It's just the same with young people. We all know that youth have voices, and something to say. At The Learning Web we like to feel that we listen to them. This pretty much sums up "Youth Voice":

"Youth voice refers to the distinct ideas, opinions, attitudes, knowledge, and actions of young people as a collective body. The term youth voice often groups together a diversity of perspectives and experiences, regardless of backgrounds, identities, and cultural differences. It is frequently associated with the successful application of a variety of youth development activities, including service learning, youth research, and leadership training."

But why is Youth Voice so important to us? Just as we all think we have an answer or insight into a situation because we're close to it, or most affected by it, who knows more about being a youth, or what affects a youth, than a youth? And, what better way to help youth develop into adults than encourage them to participate fully in designing their activities at The Learning Web.

Over time, The Learning Web has surveyed youth, gathered their opinions, and used the information to inform the community. In some cases we've agreed with the ideas put forth; at other times not. T-CAT bus schedules were improved several years ago after information from a youth survey was publicized. The housing program through The Learning Web's Youth Outreach program was started after listening to youth.

The focus of this newsletter is Youth Voice. Please enjoy it and realize that the youth who are expressing an opinion or insight are members of our community. Remember, too, that they have a vested interest in the future of their community.

Warm Regards,

Dale C. Schumacher



Dale enjoys a visit from Bintu Sidiki, now a real estate salesperson with Audrey Edelman. Bintu stopped in to express her gratitude for the support she received while in our Housing Scholarship Program.



**Support
Us!
Shop
the Gift
Fair**

Saturday, December 7
11 AM to 6PM
Dewitt Park
In downtown Ithaca

THE COMMUNITY & CAREER EXPLORATION & APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (CCEAP) IS A VEHICLE FOR A DIVERSE GROUP OF YOUNG PEOPLE TO STEP OUT INTO THE ADULT WORLD; EXPLORING THEIR INTERESTS, GAINING NEW SKILLS, AND CONTRIBUTING TO OUR COMMUNITY BY PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY/ CAREER EXPLORATION TOURS, COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS, AND APPRENTICESHIPS WITH THE GUIDANCE OF ADULT MENTORS. JOIN US AS WE HEAR ABOUT EXCITING CCEAP EXPERIENCES FROM LEARNING WEB YOUNG PEOPLE.

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Aaron Goldberg, above, is apprenticing with Tom Fleischman in The Ithaca Journal's Sports Department. Aaron authored the accompanying article.

Aaron Goldberg, Guest Contributor—

Benjamin Gallegos and I, Aaron Goldberg, embarked on an apprenticeship this past summer, where each of us gained valuable hands-on experience in a field of our interest.

Both of us are seventeen years old and are currently seniors at Ithaca High School. Benjamin and I both began our apprenticeships at the beginning of this past summer, following our junior year at the high school.

We pursued these internships and were directed to the Learning Web by our chosen mentors. The Learning Web helped to organize our apprenticeships and gave us the opportunity to explore something that interests us and gain exposure in careers related to those interests.

I am very interested in sports journalism and intend to follow this as my major in college. Therefore, in order to learn more about this career path,

I met with Tom Fleischman, the Sports Editor at the Ithaca Journal, and set up an internship, with the help of The Learning Web, over the summer.

While at the Journal, I worked three days a week writing small articles and roundups, doing the daily TV/radio guide, proofreading. I even received the opportunity to write my first byline article.

"If you enjoy something and are even the slightest bit interested in possibly following a career in it, search for an apprenticeship."

Aaron Goldberg

— BEN GALLEGOS

Benjamin, on the other hand, is interested in physics, and he was encouraged by his physics teacher at the high school to pursue an internship with the Cornell Physics Department. Lora Hine, the Outreach Coordinator at Cornell's Wilson Lab of Elementary-Particle Physics (LEEP), advised him to get in touch with The Learning Web to set up the internship.

"After I visited LEEP, I liked the idea of what we were going to be doing," Benjamin said.

He participated in activities ranging from soldering BNC cables and lasers to heat wrapping the connection and finding better alternatives for soldering light bulbs into wires. The goal of his apprenticeship was to improve and troubleshoot high school lab kits.

For me, the experience at The Ithaca Journal was extremely valuable and proved to me that I truly do want to strive for a career in sports journalism. I was able to receive valuable writing knowledge and practice and learned so much from Mr. Fleischman. I now have an advantage that many aspiring journalism majors do not have in getting ready for college.

Benjamin does not necessarily aim to pursue a career in physics, but will definitely keep it as one of his options. Even though this is the case, he still took away helpful experiences from his apprenticeship.

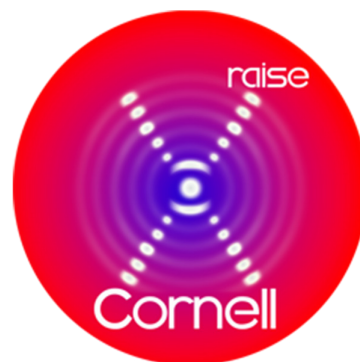
"My apprenticeship involved a lot of soldering, and I think the thing that stood out for me the most was when I was soldering something for a while," said Benjamin, "after trial and error, I was able to find out what was wrong and ended up fixing it."

Benjamin and I would advise anyone looking to become an apprentice to work through The Learning Web in order to accomplish this goal.

Benjamin said, "Life is short, and it's a lot better when you like what you are doing as a profession, and this program helps by giving experience of what day-to-day tasks are out here."

I agree and believe that hands-on experience is better than anything taught in a classroom. If you enjoy something and are even the slightest bit interested in possibly following a career in it, search for an apprenticeship. This type of internship will verify whether or not you do wish to take on the profession, while giving you fun, important practice, and an understanding of that field of work.

— Aaron Goldberg



Ben Gallegos consults with mentor, Eva Romero Luna, at his apprenticeship with Cornell's X-raise program. The outreach program bridges the scientific community to the general public through the distribution of educational materials, the sponsoring of various physics related events and by providing meaningful side-by-side interactions to students of all ages in an effort to foster life-long learning.

Youth Voice —

Commentary on Our Community

WE ASKED MIDDLE SCHOOLERS IN OUR CCEAP COMMUNITY SERVICE GROUP AND YOUTH OUTREACH PARTICIPANTS (WHO ARE HOMELESS OR TRANSIENT — LIVING INDEPENDENTLY FROM A PARENT OR GUARDIAN) TO SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON OUR COMMUNITY. WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY: WHAT THEY APPRECIATE, WHAT THEY FEEL WOULD MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER.

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Middle Schoolers



Youth Living Independently

Likes & Dislikes

People are kind. • Ithaca is “gorges.” •
People respect cultures. • People are
concerned about the environment.

We like dances. • There are malls,
local movies, and live theater.

TCat is inexpensive for students
and we can visit our friends. • Some
bus drivers are mean to the kids.

Clerks in stores disrespect kids.

We need something that's just for
middle schoolers. • Hangouts for
middle schoolers, more kid friendly
places. • We want a place to meet
other middle schoolers from different
schools. • We want programs for older
students to work with younger students,
where older kids would volunteer for
credit and teach the younger kids.

I like the colors of fall and that the
seasons change. • In this community
people are free to express themselves.

There are people willing to listen to us.
• There are services to help— a lot of
people who want to see us succeed.

There are a lot of low level, entry level jobs
like fast food. • There should be more jobs
that are better than McDonalds or Dunkin
Donuts. • There should be another level of
jobs. Something more than just minimum.

Having Cornell here is a good and bad
thing— it makes our town have more
money than other towns and that's
why there are many services but we
hate the college students because
houses and apartments are built for
people who can pay \$1500 for a studio
and what are we supposed to do?

School

We have nice teachers, it's a smaller
community, close knit • We have local
food in our cafeteria • There's less
bullying this year • It's hard because
everyone needs to be at the same pace
in classes. • There's some bullying. •
Too many cliques & grouping people.

There is opportunity to go to school, If
you want to get in, there are people at
TC3 that will help you find a way. • Good
schools, the public school—high schools.
Even though there are problems at our
high school, they're nothing compared
to other cities around our area.

Advice from Youth Outreach youth to younger youth

Ok, you know you want to leave home, but make sure you really need to leave—that
you can't think of some way to make it work. Find someone you trust—a parent, a
teacher, anyone, a friend, anyone you can trust, someone who has experience to help.